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THE LITTLE BURMA GIRL

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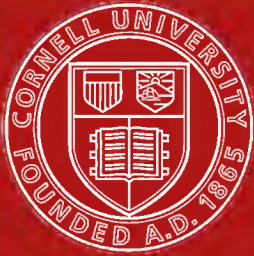
The little Burma girl /



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THE LITTLE BURMA GIRL



MADI.

[Frontispiece.]

THE LITTLE BURMA GIRL

BY
NELL PARSONS

WITH 4 COLOURED PLATES AND 66 OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS
BY THE AUTHOR

London
ROBERT CULLEY

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DEDICATED TO
MY LITTLE SISTER
GLADYS LANG

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WE ARE INTRODUCED TO MADI

.



WE ARE INTRODUCED TO MADI

YOU want me to tell you a story, Little Sister? Well, come into the garden, and I will try to tell you all about the different little girls I have met during my travels in far-away lands.

You must sit very quiet, as I want to finish this picture of Daddy's Garden before all the spring flowers have fallen and withered away.

I will first tell you the story of the Little Burma Girl, for she is the one I liked best. She lives in such a sweet, green, sunny land, where the people are happy and contented, and kind to animals.

Yes; another day I will show my pictures that I painted while I was living in Burma. Perhaps I will write it all down and put it into a book, and put the pictures in the book also, and give it to you on your birthday.

The Little Burma Girl

Yes ; I knew little Madi, and when first I met her she was trying to drive a naughty dog away from the bowl of rice that her mother had just cooked for the family dinner. She was only a tiny little girl of three years old ; and she ran at the dog, calling out, ' Hé, Kwé ! Hé, Kwé ! ' In Burma a dog is called a *Kwé*. She waved her arms about to frighten the dog ; but she never hit it, or threw stones at it, for she was, like all the little Burma girls, very gentle and kind.

Then some years later I met little Madi again, and saw her dance in the dances by the Ananda Pagoda. A great many villages had sent their set of girls, who dance in what they call in Burma a ' Yen Pwé ' (village dance).

I had to settle where all the different village Pwés should go when the Viceroy came over on a visit from India. And we decided to put the best Pwé in front of the great Ananda Pagoda. I had to sit for hours and see all the different village Pwés dance, and then choose the best. I am sure you guess, Little Sister, which one I chose ! I made Madi come up afterwards, and I painted a picture of her in her pretty dress.

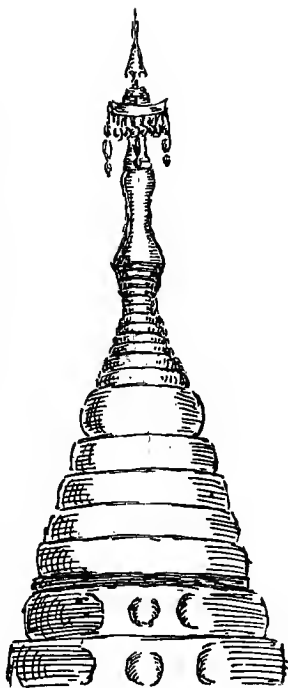
I often saw Ko Sit and San Pé, her two brothers, playing at games of ball in the river with the other boys. The Irrawaddy is such a very big river. It is much, much bigger than any of the rivers in England. If you were a bird, and could fly right up in the sky and look down, you would think it looked like a silvery grey line running across an emerald field, with white pearl beads

We are Introduced to Madi

and a few gold beads thrown all over it. The white pearls would be the white pagodas, and the gold beads the gilded pagodas.

Yes, darling, it is a very pretty country, but quite a different kind of prettiness from that of our little England. The pagodas have little bells hanging round the top, and when the wind blows all the little bells tinkle so prettily. And the men on the river rowing their boats often sing songs, and their songs are very nice ones. It is a sweet, peaceful country, but sometimes the sun is rather hot. Then, if you are wise, you stay indoors.

Well, I expect I had better begin the story, or it will be your bedtime before I start. I thought you would like to know it is partly a true story.



PAGODA TOP.

THE BUDDHA AND HIS SNAKE
STORY



THE BUDDHA AND HIS SNAKE STORY

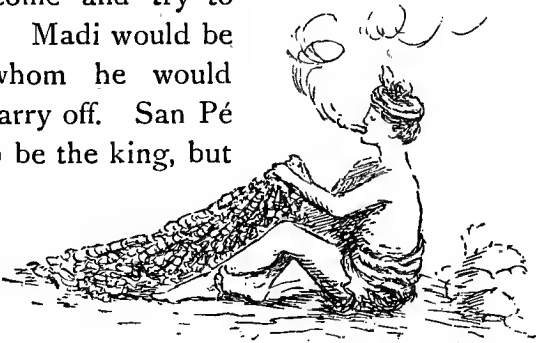
LITTLE MADI stood beside her small brother San Pé on the banks of the great river Irrawaddy. They were watching for their father's boat to return : the great big boat with the yellow and brown sails ; the boat in which their father had taken all the many, many big baskets of rice down to Rangoon, to sell in the great market there.

San Pé wished he could grow up quickly and be allowed to go with his father in that big boat. Mounç, Lugalé, one of the boatmen, had told him many stories about the beautiful city, and the golden pagoda, and the wonderful things you could buy in the shops there. His eldest brother, Ko Sit, had gone with his father, and little San Pé hoped that Ko Sit would bring back a nice present for him from Rangoon.

In the dry season, when the big boat was tied up by the bank and lying idle, the three children would play

The Little Burma Girl

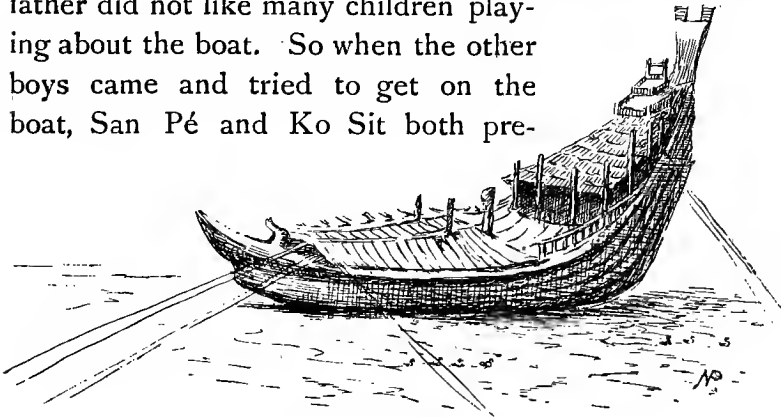
great games, calling it a castle. Ko Sit would be king of the castle, and San Pé would have to be a robber chieftain and come and try to take the castle. Madi would be the princess whom he would have to try to carry off. San Pé often begged to be the king, but Ko Sit would never allow this. He always wanted to be king himself. He said



MOUNG LUGALÉ.

San Pé was too little to be a king.

Very often other boys joined them; but Ko Sit's father did not like many children playing about the boat. So when the other boys came and tried to get on the boat, San Pé and Ko Sit both pre-



THE BIG BOAT.

tended to be chieftains and drove them off. They did not mind if they fell off into the water, for most little

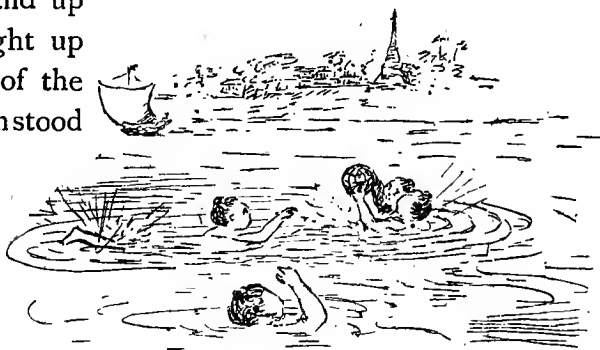
The Buddha and his Snake Story

Burmese boys can swim just like fishes. It is not cold in Burma in the winter as it is in England.

Sometimes San Pé and Ko Sit would jump into the water and join them, and have a game of ball in the water. Then little Madi, finding herself alone, would come out of the cabin and run across the little plank on to the bank. She would take the pathway that crossed the toddy-palm grove, and climb up the broad stone steps, up and up and up, right up to the top of the hill on which stood a little temple.

The people of Burma believe that Buddha,

who was a very good and holy man, who lived many hundreds of years ago, walked across Burma after he had died and left this world, and they tell you that temples have been built wherever he placed a foot. But he must have been a great giant when he walked across Burma, for the footprints are so far apart and so very large, as large as a dining-room table. Now in the old temple to which Madi used to go, there was one of the footprints of Buddha. Little Madi used to like to go and look at it, and think about the



THE BOYS PLAYING AT BALL IN THE RIVER.

The Little Burma Girl

wonderful man who was big enough to have made such a big footprint.

There were many images of Buddha in the temple, and they were of all sizes : some little marble ones, and some bronze ones, and some large wooden ones gilded. Madi used to go and talk to them, and she made them



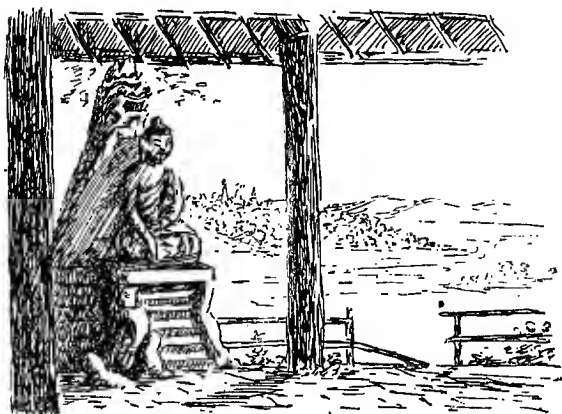
THE TEMPLE BY THE RIVER.

answer back, just like some little girls do with their dolls.

There was one image that used to frighten Madi very much. It was in a room by itself. It was a big gilded image of Buddha ; and perched up behind the Buddha, with its fore-paws outstretched over his head, was a great stone dragon. The Burmans call that kind of dragon 'Belooos.' Madi thought the Beloo

The Buddha and his Snake Story

looked as if he was just going to spring over the image of Buddha and eat her up. Indeed little Madi hardly dared to go into this room in the evenings when it was



THE BUDDHA GUARDED BY THE BELOO.

nearly dark, for she sometimes felt as if the Beloo was a real live creature.

But she liked the image the Beloo guarded best of all the images.

When the sun was shining brightly in the middle of the day, she would go in just to look at him. She always took care to make a low 'shiko' (which is the Burmese word for a bow) to the Beloo as she entered. The Burmese 'shiko' by going down on their knees and putting their hands together : they bow themselves to the ground.

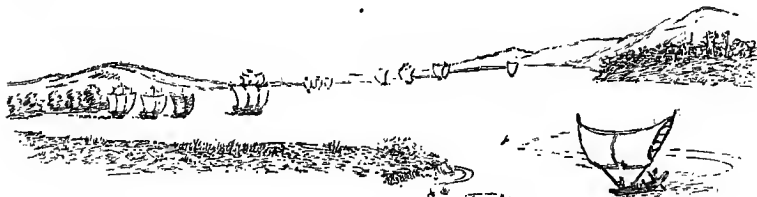


MADI SHIKOEING.

Sometimes she would say, 'Oh, please, Buddha, ask your Beloo to keep still and not jump over and eat me up!'

The Little Burma Girl

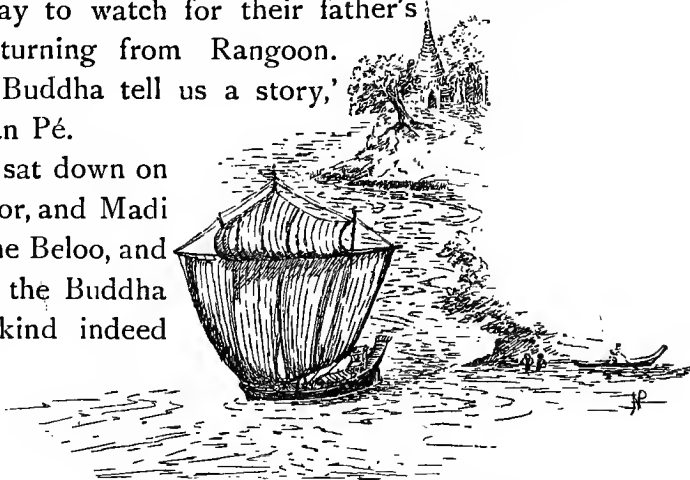
And then she used to think the Buddha smiled and nodded his head, and said, 'Oh, certainly.'



Outside the temple where
the great big footprint lay,
she could see far
below the broad
winding river.

Sometimes she took San Pé with her. They went
there one day to watch for their father's
big boat returning from Rangoon.
'Make the Buddha tell us a story,'
said little San Pé.

So they sat down on
the stone floor, and Madi
shikoed to the Beloo, and
then begged the Buddha
to be very kind indeed
and to tell
them a
story. Of
course
Madi had



THE BOATS SAILING UP THE RIVER IRRRAWADDY.

to tell the story, and make it up all herself, but they
both somehow believed the Buddha was telling it all

The Buddha and his Snake Story

the time. And this is one of the tales Madi made the Buddha tell them.

‘So I wandered on and on, from village to village. The people were always kind to me, and gave me food. They would ask me many questions, such as “Why did I not go back to the palace and my father and mother, and have beautiful clothes, and everything to make me happy?” I told them that the only happiness was being good and kind and gentle. And that people should be kind to animals and treat them as they treat each other.

‘And I also told them that——’

‘I don’t much care for that story,’ said little San Pé, interrupting her. ‘Ask the Buddha to tell us the one about the snakes.’

‘Ah, I’ve—I mean the Buddha has told us that one so often.’

‘Well, never mind ; I like it better than the other. That one he began telling us makes me think I am at school, for the “poongyes” (priests) are always telling us the good things Buddha taught the people.’

So Madi, shikoeing very low to the Buddha, asked him kindly to tell them the story of the snakes, and so began :

‘This tale was in the very olden time, and things were different then from what they are now. And the snakes were quite different too. There was only one poisonous kind of snake, and all the others were harmless, and though you may wonder at it, it was none other than the great python. He was so deadly poisonous

The Little Burma Girl

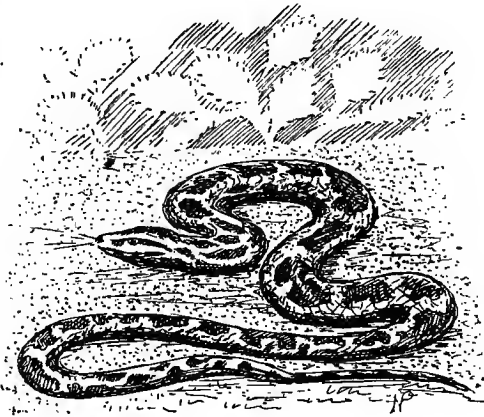
that if he bit your footprints within a week after you made them you died.

‘ Now that was dreadful ; but the worst part of it all was that he was a cross, ill-natured sort of snake, and his chief pleasure in life was to go around looking for old footprints, and if he thought they were just as old as he could manage, sure enough he would bite them, and then you died. And you could not even have your revenge by killing him before you died. It was that that made the people so angry.

‘ Anyhow, they could stand it no longer. So they held a great meeting to decide what was to be done. All the people who came to the meet-

ing carefully brushed away their footprints as they went along. At the meeting one said one thing and another said something else. They talked and talked, and at last they began to quarrel. Then a good old priest got up, and made them stop talking. Then he said :

“ Now listen, my children ; our trouble is indeed hard to bear, and we have borne it long and patiently ; but now the evil must be overcome. I have taken deep



THE PYTHON.



MADI IN THE TEMPLE TELLING SAN PÉ THE STORY OF THE SNAKES.

The Buddha and his Snake Story

thought, and know of only one way. It is this. As you know, there is only one thing that is not afraid of the python, and that is the crow. He is so cunning



THE PEOPLE BRUSHING AWAY THEIR FOOTPRINTS.

that he never walks anywhere where he would leave a footprint.

“Now the python knows this, and he just hates the crow, and the crow only laughs and jeers at him. Now I propose to make a friend of the crow, and get him to help me. Return, good people, to your homes, and I will tell you the result as soon as I can.”



THE CROW.

‘So the people went back to their homes, covering up their footprints as they went along, for fear the python should find them.

‘And the old priest went to see the crow, and he also carefully brushed away his footprints as he went.

The Little Burma Girl

The crow saw him coming and laughed at him ; but he just said good morning politely.

“ Now, look here,” he said to the crow ; “ I know you don’t like that python, but you are not afraid of him. All the same, you must find it a great nuisance to fly over all the soft places, and to see this python fellow just putting down nice dainty tit-bits on all the soft places, just to tempt you to make footprints. Now don’t you think it would be a good thing just to settle him once for all ? ”

‘ The crow scratched the back of his head with his very hindmost claw, just to show that he was not bothering much about that python. He tweaked his beak on his big toe, cocked his head on one side, closed his left eye, and said—

“ Well ? ”

“ Yes, well ? ” said the priest. “ A clever bird like you knows what I was going to say, but anyhow, I might as well say it.” Then he whispered in the crow’s ear for a long time ; and presently away flew the crow straight off to the python.

‘ He perched on a tree, and said to the python, “ I say, old chap, haven’t you had enough of this very silly joke ? Eh ? What ? ”

‘ The python glared at him. “ Why can’t you say straight out what you have got to say, instead of talking ? ”

‘ And to himself he said, “ I wish I could get a bite at that black wretch’s footprints.”

The Buddha and his Snake Story

‘The crow laughed to himself a little, and then said, “Well, I thought it might hurt your feelings if I did. But since you don’t mind, I will explain. You think people die if you bite their footprints ; but they don’t. Not they. Ho! Ho! Ho!” And the crow laughed out loud. “Why, you might have heard them laughing at the meeting yesterday. They made such a noise.”

“I heard them,” said the python ; “who didn’t?”

“They were laughing at you,” said the crow, “Ha ! Ha !” And he shook with laughter.

“Laughing at me?” screamed the python.

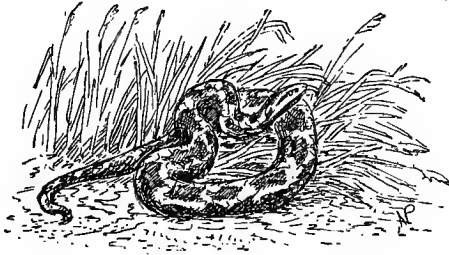
“Yes, at you and your

poison.” And the more angry the python became the more the crow laughed.

“I won’t be laughed at any more!” roared the python. “I’ve done with this fraud. If my poison is no good, I’ll throw it away.”

‘Then he dragged out the little bag of poison he kept in his throat, and threw it on the ground, and went off in a fury.

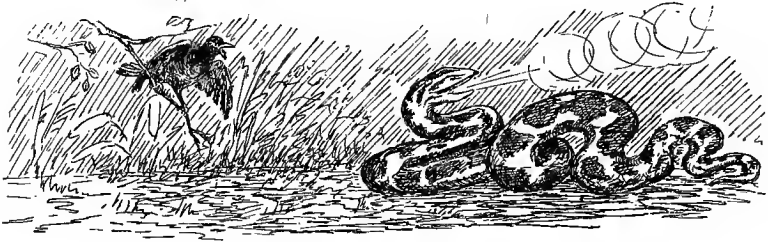
‘Now all the other snakes had been listening quietly ;



THE PYTHON AND THE CROW.

The Little Burma Girl

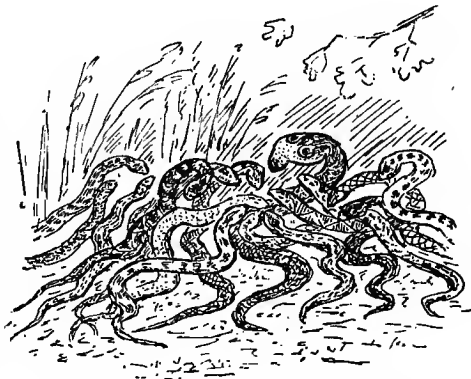
and no sooner did the python go off than out they rushed and fought for the poison in the bag. Some



THE PYTHON THROWING AWAY HIS POISON.

got a lot, and some got a little, and some got none at all. The cobra was greedy, and he got a lot, and——’

‘Aiee!’ cried little Madi, springing up and dragging her little brother away. ‘It is the cobra himself, and he is angry because I have called him greedy. Oh, Lord Cobra, I am sorry; I did not mean it!’



THE SNAKES FIGHTING FOR THE POISON.

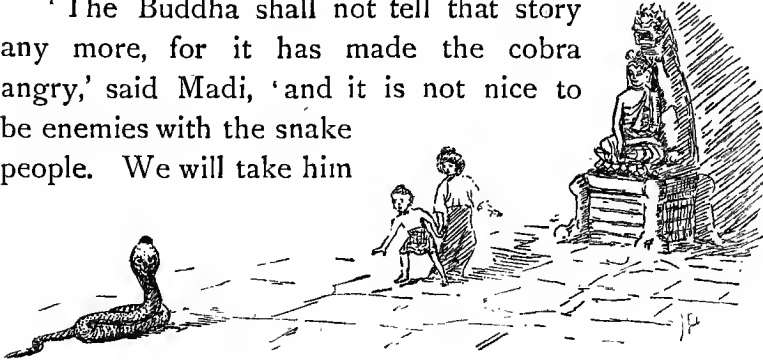
A sharp hiss came from the cobra as he swayed his hooded head to and fro.

‘It was the Buddha telling the story, not we,’ said

The Buddha and his Snake Story

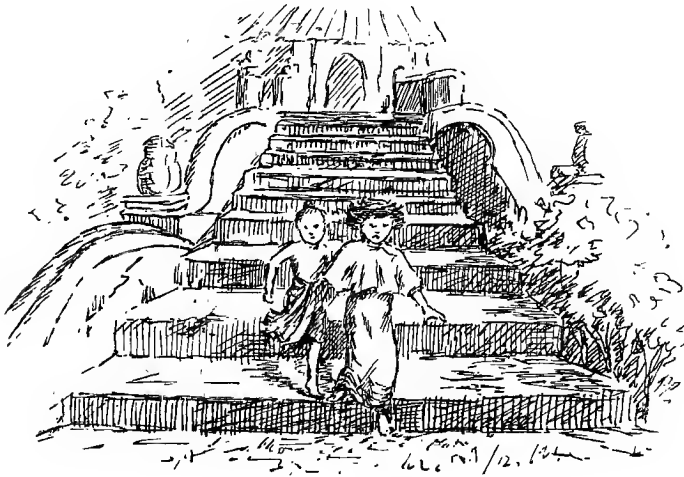
little San Pé, as he trotted down the stone steps after his sister.

‘The Buddha shall not tell that story any more, for it has made the cobra angry,’ said Madi, ‘and it is not nice to be enemies with the snake people. We will take him



THE COBRA IN THE TEMPLE.

a cup of milk to-morrow, and then he will not be angry with us any more.’



MADI AND SAN PÉ RUNNING AWAY FROM THE COBRA.

THE YEN PWÉ

,

THE YEN PWÉ

WHEN the children reached the river bank they saw that their father's boat had just arrived. A boatman was fastening a rope to one of the great posts on the bank, and Ko Sit was



KO SIT SMOKING.

standing watching him, and smoking a cigar. Little San Pé stood still with surprise, for he had never seen Ko Sit smoking a whole big cigar before, just like a man. He was going to ask him whether he was

The Little Burma Girl

allowed to smoke as much as he liked, when he suddenly saw Ko Sit put the cigar behind his back. San Pé turned and saw his father coming out of the cabin of the boat.

When his father saw Madi he called out, 'Ah, here is my little girl! Why was she not here to meet me when I returned?'

Madi felt so vexed to think that after coming day by day to watch for the boat's return she should have missed it after all that she began to weep.

'Never mind, my little girl; I was only joking,' said her father, stroking her hair. 'Come and see what I have brought my children from Rangoon City.'

So there were presents after all, and little San Pé ran along eagerly holding his father's hand while little Madi held the other hand.

Ko Sit did not follow them, for he wanted to go on smoking his big cigar, and he was rather afraid his father would take it away if he saw it. I think it was rather naughty of Ko Sit. Don't you? The Chinaman who had bought all his father's rice in Rangoon had given him two cigars, and he had kept them till he returned to his own village to smoke, for he wanted to make the other boys jealous and make them think him very grown up. Several of his friends came and watched him and wished he would offer them a turn at the cigar.

What do you think Madi's father had brought her from Rangoon? Two lovely silver bangles! She was

The Yen Pwé

delighted, and put them on quickly, and ran to see all



KO SIT AND THE OTHER BOYS.

her friends and show them her lovely new ornaments.
They *did* admire them.



MADI AND HER FRIENDS.

‘I shall wear them when I dance in the Yen Pwé,’

The Little Burma Girl

she said, 'and also this lovely new scarf my father has given me.'

Now a 'Yen Pwé' is a Burmese dance. All the girls stand in rows, but they don't do any steps as English dancers do, or move backwards and forwards up and down the room. They just bend about their bodies and their arms and sing while they are dancing. They all dress alike, and when they move very nicely all together it looks very pretty.

Now little Madi was considered one of the best



THE YEN PWÉ.

dancers in the village Yen Pwé. An old man taught them dancing. Every village in Burma has a Yen Pwé. Most of the girls dance in it, but the married women never dance in the Yen Pwés. When some big festival comes off in one of the towns, all the Pwés from all the different villages round come to the town, and a prize is given for the best Pwé.

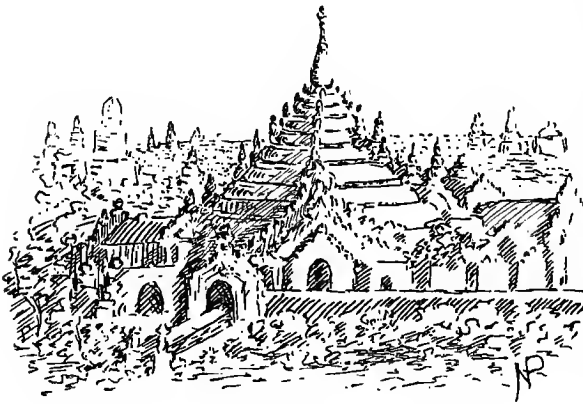
At the last big festival Madi's village Pwé had won the prize.

'Do you know,' said Madi, 'what my father tells

The Yen Pwé

me? He heard it in Rangoon. The great Viceroy of India is coming over to visit Burma, and when he comes there will be all sorts of fun. He will come and visit the old city of Pagan near by, and all the village Yen Pwés will have to go there and dance before him. The best Pwé will be put by the gates of the Ananda pagoda, and that is the place of honour.'

'Ah, I know our Pwé will be chosen for that, for we



THE ANANDA PAGODA.

are the best dancers of all,' said little Mah Mie, and she clapped her hands and danced about for joy.

'There is to be a

trial first before he comes,' said Madi.

'We shall win; I know we shall!' cried all the girls. And Madi ran home laughing.

When the day of the trials came it certainly was a very exciting time. All the village Pwés were collected in the old city of Pagan. All the girls were feeling rather anxious, and Madi's friends were very nervous for fear they might make some mistake and not get the first prize.

The Little Burma Girl

They all looked so pretty in their yellow skirts and little white muslin jackets and soft pink scarves. Madi was wearing her new silver bangles, and she kept shaking her hands about just to hear them jingle-jinkle.

The girls from Taw-mone village were first called to do their dance, and all the other Pwé girls were seated around watching. The judges sat just in front of the dancers, and

were to decide who should have the first prize. Madi was sitting next to her great friend Mah Mie. They heard some little boys begging and whispering.

'I think are up to some mischief,' said



MADI AND MAH MIE WATCHING THE PWÉ.

those judges who were the first to sit down. They heard boys begging and whispering. Those boys were some mischief-makers. Madi.

But Mah Mie did not listen to what her friend was saying; she was too busy thinking to herself that if their Pwé was going to get the first prize they would have to dance their very best, for the Taw-mone girls were very good dancers. They did their movements all so well together. 'Their dresses are very pretty too,' said Mah Mie, rather sadly; 'I hope we shall keep as good time as they do.'

'Those boys come from Taw-mone village,' said Madi, 'and surely they are thinking of some very

The Yen Pwé

mischievous thing, for they keep laughing and looking at us.'

When Mah Mie heard that the boys came from Taw-mone village she began to listen; and then she said, 'Perhaps, Madi, they are going to do something to spoil our dance; for if we don't get first prize the Taw-mone girls surely will, for they are the next best dancers to us. I will go and tell my brothers, and come you and tell your two brothers also, and they will watch while we are dancing and stop their mischief.'

When Ko Sit and San Pé heard what Madi had to say they were

very excited, and promised to keep a good look-out and keep those naughty boys from Taw-mone village from doing anything to spoil the dance.

When the Taw-mone girls had finished the judges praised them very much, and the girls walked off looking very proud of themselves.

Then the judges called the Mindaw village Pwé. Now Mindaw was the name of the village in which



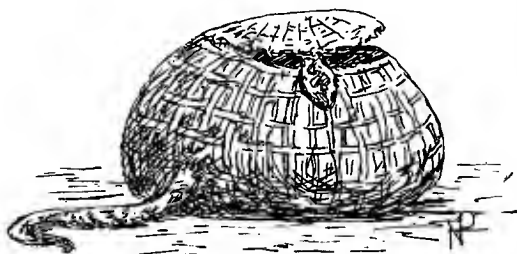
MADI TELLING HER BROTHERS.

The Little Burma Girl

Madi lived, so it was their turn at last ; and the old man who had taught them ran about in a very excited way arranging them in their places.

‘Now don’t be nervous,’ he said, ‘and you girls behind, mind you keep your eyes on the front row ; and do keep time. Now I’m going to tell the musicians to begin playing the music, and when I raise my arm you must begin to dance.’

Madi felt a little bit nervous, but as soon as she



THE SNAKE IN THE BASKET.

began to dance she forgot all her fears, and danced better than any one else.

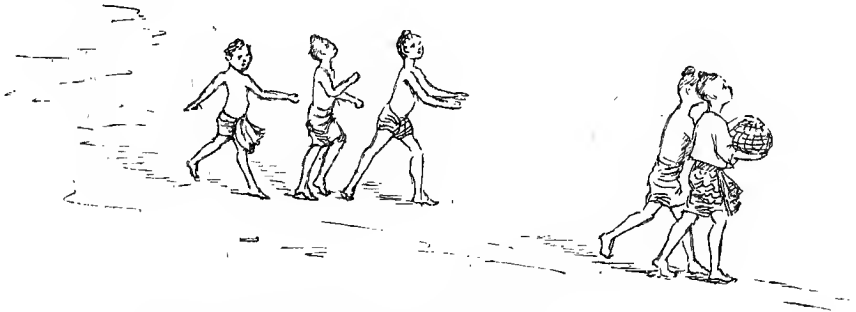
Now, those naughty Taw-mone boys had caught a snake—

not a poisonous one, of course, but just a harmless grass snake that would never think of biting people. They put it in a basket, and they were waiting for the girls of the Mindaw village to get fully started in their dance, and then they meant to let the snake out and drive it in the direction of the dancers. Of course the girls would think it was a bad, poisonous snake, come out of the grass to bite them ; and then they would all run away, and their dance would be spoilt ; and the judges would have to give the first prize to the Taw-mone girls.

The Yen Pwé

Now that is what they meant to do, and of course it was very naughty and unkind. But you remember that Madi's brothers and some other little boys were waiting to catch them.

The boys carried the basket, and came closer and closer to the dancers. Little Madi could see them coming, and she wondered where her brothers and the other boys had gone to. But although she watched the boys now and then, she did not forget her dancing. When next she looked at them she saw Ko Sit and



THE BROTHERS RUNNING OFF WITH THE SNAKE.

another boy talking to the boys with the basket. Then she saw Ko Sit trying to open the basket and the other boys trying to stop him.

Then when she looked again a great scuffle was going on. At last her brothers got the basket and ran off with it. She felt very thankful to see them all running away, for now she hoped they would be able to finish their dancing without being disturbed.

The Little Burma Girl

Then she saw Ko Sit coming back, and he and his friends were smiling very much, and the other boys were nowhere to be seen.

At last they finished their dance, and the judges praised them very much.

Then all the girls of all the Pwés went to a house in the town, and had sweets and cakes, and sat and talked and laughed, and were very merry. The judges would soon come, and then they would know who had won the prize.



KO SIT.

Ko Sit came and told his sister what the naughty Taw-mone boys had meant to do. Madi and her friends all thanked the boys very much, and gave them a share of their sweets and cakes.

At last they saw the judges walking down the road, followed by many people, for all were eager to hear who had won the first prize.

Then one of the judges came forward and said, 'We have all seen some very nice dancing here to-day, and we have found it quite difficult to decide which Pwé should have first prize. But we think the best of all——'

Madi was so excited that she shut her ears, for she felt she could not bear it if the Taw-mone girls got the

The Yen Pwé

prize, but she opened them again just in time to hear the judge saying, 'Mindaw Pwé.' And she knew that

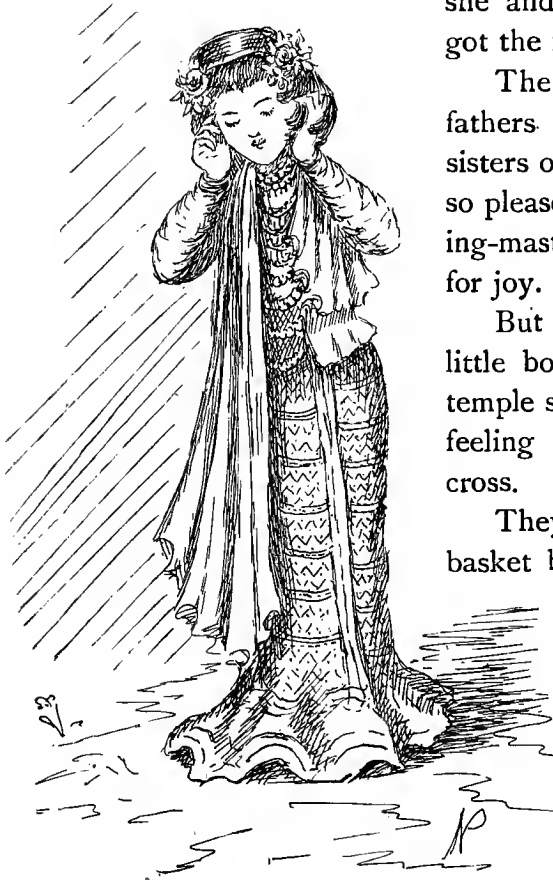
she and her friends had got the first prize.

The mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters of those girls were so pleased; and the dancing-master jumped about for joy.

But there were five little boys sitting on the temple steps by the river, feeling very sore and cross.

They had a broken basket beside them. Ko

Sit and his friends had given them a good beating to punish them for their meanness in trying to spoil the dance of the



MADI SHUTTING HER EARS.

Mindaw village girls.

The Mindaw village girls all went back to their homes, very pleased and proud at having won the first

The Little Burma Girl

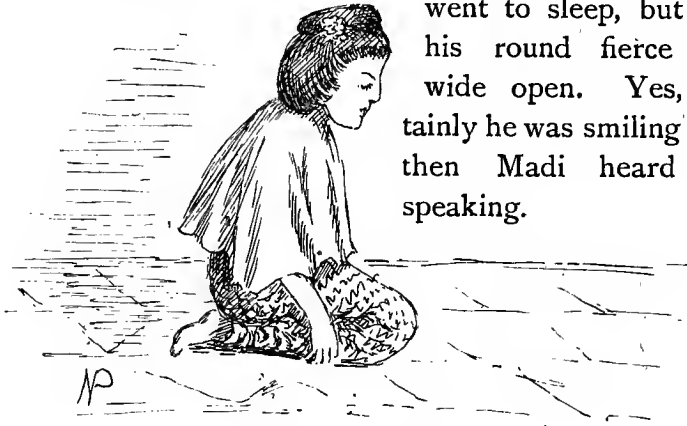
prize ; and they meant to try and win it the next year also.

When Madi got back home again she went up to her favourite pagoda to see the Buddha who was guarded by the dragon, and tell him how they had won the first prize. And when she went into the little room and made her bow to the dragon, she thought he smiled. So she sat down and began to tell the Buddha all about it.

‘And there was a snake in the basket,’ she said, ‘and those naughty boys meant to—to——’ and then her voice got weaker and slower, and she fell asleep.

It was a very hot day, and I really think the Buddha was asleep too, but the dragon was not. He never

went to sleep, but kept his round fierce eyes wide open. Yes, certainly he was smiling ; and then Madi heard him speaking.



MADI IN THE TEMPLE.

‘ Little girl, you and your friends won the first prize

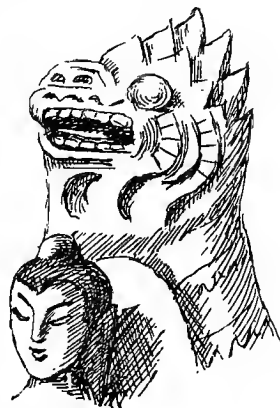


MADI AND MAH MIE

The Yen Pwé

at the dance, and you will dance again next year and again you will win ; but not every time.

‘Then there will come a time when you are nearly grown up, and there will be many people looking on at the dances. A great chief will be there, and you and your friends will dance very beautifully, but you will dance best of all. And the great chief will ask you to be his wife, and will take you away to his home in the far-off mountains.



THE BUDDHA.

‘And there will be a wicked woman in a castle in those mountains, and she will try to have you killed, and——’

Madi woke with a great start, so she did not know how the dream ended.

She had slept there many hours, and the sun was just setting, and it was nearly dark in the little temple. So she jumped up, and, bowing to the dragon, she said,

‘Oh, dragon, please tell me if it all ended happily. Will that wicked princess really kill me some day, or will it be all right and shall I live happy ever after?’

But the dragon said nothing. You see, he could only speak to people when they were asleep.

So poor little Madi ran home very sad and frightened, and for many days after she did not go to the pagoda or the Buddha's temple.

THE CASTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS
AND WHAT HAPPENED THERE

THE CASTLE IN THE MOUNTAINS AND WHAT HAPPENED THERE

THE dragon was right, and next year the Mindaw girls again won the first prize for dancing.

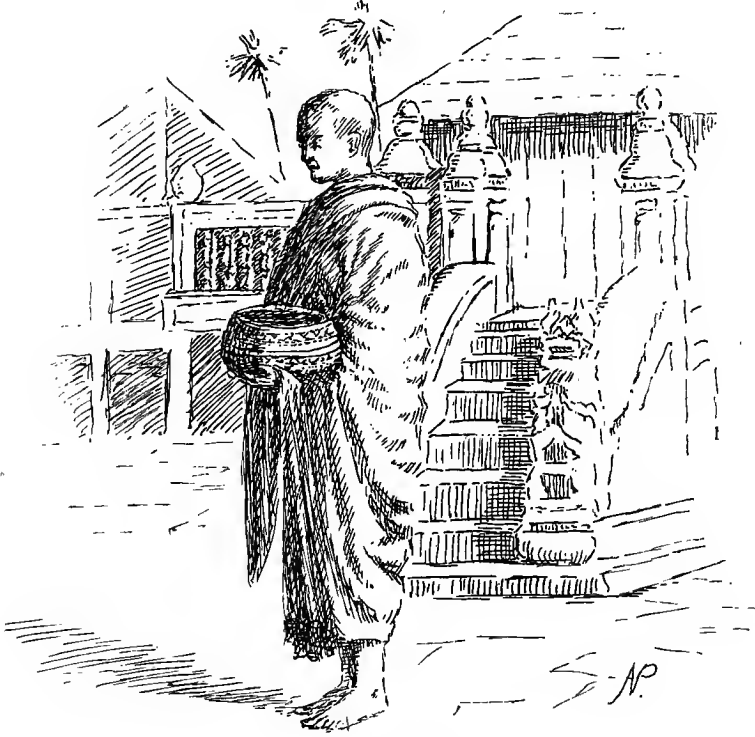
And the years went by, and Ko Sit grew a big, big boy, and had his hair cut off and his head shaved, and he became a Phongyi (priest) and lived in a monastery, and went round every day with a begging-bowl; and the people ran out of their houses as he passed and put some of their breakfast into his bowl. For this is the custom in Burma. The priests never have money of their own, so the people give them food. The Phongyis are good, kind men, and they teach the children in the villages, and take care of all the lame and old animals that are no good any more for work. When a horse or a bullock or a buffalo gets too old to do any more work, it can just go and live in the monastery garden quite peacefully.

Ko Sit, who was always fond of animals, used to take special care of the two old bullocks and the lame pony who had lost one foot.

The Little Burma Girl

There were lots of cocks and hens and dogs there as well.

San Pé grew a big boy too, and went with his father



KO SIT AS PHONGYI.

in the big boat to Rangoon to take the rice to the markets there.

And Madi grew into a very pretty young girl, and every one said she was the prettiest girl in all the villages around.

The Castle in the Mountains

Madi often went to the pagoda and into the Buddha's room, but she was a big girl now, and not frightened any more of the dragon. He never spoke to her again, but then perhaps that was because she never went to sleep again in the temple.

She remembered quite well all the dragon had told her. She wondered when she was to meet the great chief whom she was to marry. The dragon had told her she was to meet him at the dance festival, so she looked forward to that time very much.

At last the great day arrived, and there was a chieftain watching the dances. And he asked who Madi was, and went and spoke to her father and mother, and he asked them if he might take their pretty daughter away to be his wife and live with him up in his castle in the mountains.

First of all Madi was pleased, for he was a very handsome chieftain, and loved her very much ; but when



A SHAN CHIEF.

The Little Burma Girl

the day came for her to leave her father and mother and brothers and friends, she felt very sad, and shed many tears.

But her chieftain told her that his castle was very beautiful, and that she would be very happy there, and he would give her everything she wanted.

So she dried her eyes and said good-bye to them all, and got into a big boat with the chieftain. The boatmen put up all the sails, and away they went up the river, and Madi saw her father and mother and all her friends waving and waving till she went out of sight.

Then all of a sudden she remembered the dragon's warning in her dream, and she said to the chieftain,

‘Is there a princess living in your country?’

And he answered, ‘My sister is a princess, and she lives in a castle many miles away from my castle. But I expect she will come and see you soon after we arrive.’

Then Madi was very frightened, and she wanted to go back again, and begged the chieftain to take her back to her father and mother and all her friends. But, you see, he did not know about the dream, and he could not understand why she was so frightened, so he tried to comfort her; but he would not take her back again, as he wanted to take her to live in his castle. He was sure she would be quite happy there. So Madi tried to forget the dream and be contented and cheerful.

They travelled for many days on the boats up the river.

At last the chieftain said, ‘Now here we get out of

The Castle in the Mountains

the boats and travel across the land to those blue mountains.'

There was a pony for the chieftain to ride, with a gorgeous green saddle, and red velvet reins, and tassels hanging all about. And there were many ponies for all his followers to ride ; but for Madi there was a little cart all decorated with red muslin and gold tinsel, and two



BOATS ON RIVER.

handsome bullocks harnessed to the cart to drag it along.

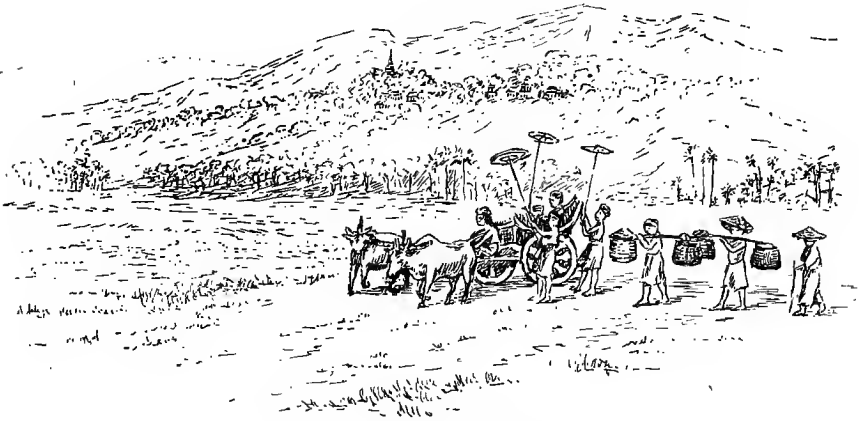
And so they started, and the procession was so long that those riding in front could not see the last ones coming behind.

When they reached the blue mountains (but they did not look blue when you got up to them) Madi had

The Little Burma Girl

to get out of her nice little bullock-cart and ride on an elephant the rest of the way. The chieftain told her the cart could not go up the rough mountain roads.

She was very frightened at first, as she had never been on the back of an elephant before; but when the chieftain said he was coming up too she did not mind any more. He told her there were many wild elephants



MADI IN HER BULLOCK-CART.

in those hills. But the one they were riding on was a tame one, of course.

Madi was delighted with the pretty things that Zuzaka (for that was the chieftain's name) gave her when they reached the castle.

She thought the castle was rather lonely, perched up all by itself on a high mountain. Down below in the valley lay the village, and a zigzag pathway led down from the castle to the village. On either side of the

The Castle in the Mountains

path lay a great forest of trees, great high trees, and all sorts of animals lived in the forest.

Madi could hear them at night calling to one another. Sometimes she would hear a leopard roar, and sometimes a wild elephant would give a loud, trumpet-like sound, calling to his friends to know where they were feeding that night. Sometimes the tame elephant that lived in a stable all to himself would give a loud trumpet back, just as if to say, 'I wish I could get out of here and join you all in the forest.'

Madi thought that perhaps the elephant was not so tame as Zuzaka thought he was. But

Zuzaka knew quite well that perhaps his elephant would want to run away, and so he had fastened a strong chain round one of his feet. All night long the little barking deer would call to one another, and Madi felt very lonely sometimes. She often wished to be back again in her bright little village by the great river, and



THE ELEPHANT.

The Little Burma Girl

to see again the boats, and to dance in the Pwés, and to go to the pagoda festivals with all her friends.

She had no friends to come and see her in her castle on the mountain. Very often Zuzaka would go away for several days on a shooting trip; then little Madi



BARKING DEER.

would be all alone with the servants. There was one old woman servant in the castle who was particularly told by Zuzaka to look after Madi and see that she had everything that she wanted.

This old woman, whose name was Mah Min, pretended to be very fond of Madi.

The Castle in the Mountains

One day Zuzaka came to Mah Min and said, 'I am going away on a shooting trip, and I want you to take great care of the Lady Madi while I am away.'



ZUZAKA AND MADI.

And Mah Min promised to take the greatest care of Madi, and to see that she had everything that she wanted. Then Zuzaka went to Madi and told her that

The Little Burma Girl

he was going away right into the mountains towards the north, and that he would be away many days. And he said, 'Oh, little Madi, I hope that my sister who lives over there in that distant castle will come and pay you a visit while I am away. She has not seen you yet, and I feel sure that she is very anxious to do so.'

Madi was very sorry to say good-bye to Zuzaka, and felt sure she would be very lonely without him. She told Mah Min what Zuzaka had said about the sister coming over to stay with her while he was away. Now, Mah Min looked very grave when she heard this, and she said, shaking her head sadly, 'Oh, little Lady Madi, I am sorry to hear this news.'

'But why are you sorry?' said Madi. 'Is it not a good thing that the sister comes to stay with me while the chieftain is away?'

'Ah, little Lady Madi,' Mah Min replied, 'you do not know what this lady is like. She is a very wicked lady, and she hates all beautiful people, for she wants to be the most beautiful lady in the mountains. She has heard perhaps that you are very beautiful, and she wishes to come and see if this is true. If, when she sees you, she thinks you are more beautiful than herself, she will have you killed. The chieftain Zuzaka is away, and there will be no one to defend you.'

'But surely all my servants would defend me?' said little Madi.

'Oh no, for all the servants are very much afraid

The Castle in the Mountains

of the Lady Ganezein. I only am not afraid of her ; but what could I do ?'



PAGODA ON THE HILL AND . . .

Then little Madi remembered the dream she had dreamed in the little temple on the top of the hill : how a wicked princess would want to kill her ; and she was very much afraid.

'What shall I do, Mah Min ? Oh, help me to think of some plan to save myself !'

'I have just thought of a very good plan,' said Mah Min, 'but perhaps you will not consent to it.'

'Oh yes, oh yes,' cried Madi. 'Anything to escape the wicked Ganezein !'

'Well, listen,' said Mah Min. 'When the Lady Ganezein comes here you must just change places with



. . . MADI SMOKING.

The Little Burma Girl

me. You must lend me your finest clothes, and you must tell all the servants to bow down to me and serve me as they do you; but you must be a servant and take my place and do all my duties. Now, do you consent?’

‘Oh yes,’ said little Madi; ‘but I hope you won’t make any mistakes, for it would be worse than ever if the Lady Ganezein found out we were deceiving her.’



MAH MIN SMOKING.

‘I will be very careful,’ said Mah Min; ‘and as I expect she will be arriving to-day we had better begin at once.’

So Madi went and fetched her best clothes, and gave them to Mah Min to put on; and she herself took one of Mah Min’s oldest dresses and put it on. Then Mah

Min seated herself on a mat, and took a cigar out of Madi’s best silver box (for, you know, all Burmese ladies smoke), and then she ordered Madi to fetch the matches. Then when she had lit the cigar she told Madi to fetch a fan and come and fan her.

Madi did not like this, so she said, ‘No, I will not begin to wait on you till the Lady Ganezein arrives.’

But Mah Min replied, ‘We had better practise a little first, so as not to make any mistakes when she comes.’

The Castle in the Mountains

So poor Madi had to sit and fan her maid, and wait on her, and do all she told her to do.

Then she called all the servants, and told them it was her wish that for a few days they should call her Mah Min, and that they should call Mah Min Madi, and that they should wait on her and treat her as if she was really Madi.

Just as she had finished telling the servants all this,



MADI TELLING THE SERVANTS WHAT TO DO.

there was a great noise and commotion outside, and one of the servants came running in, and bowing to Madi said, 'Your Highness, here is the Lady Ganezein.'

Mah Min came into the room at that moment and said angrily,

'What are you calling my maid "Your Highness" for? Don't you know that it is only the chieftain Zuzaka and I that are called "Your Highness"? Don't any of you others make any such mistakes again!'

The Little Burma Girl

Poor Madi did not quite like being treated by her own servants just as if she was a servant.

When the Lady Ganezein came in, Mah Min ran to greet her, and told her how pleased she was to see her; and she made her sit down on the best mat, and gave her a cigar out of Madi's silver cigar-box. Then she turned round and said, 'Mah Min, bring the matches quickly.' And Madi had to bring the matches quickly, and bow to the Lady Ganezein.



THE LADY GANEZEIN.

Then Mah Min called for sweetmeats and little cakes.

When the Lady Ganezein had eaten many cakes she turned round and looked hard at Mah Min.

'Do you mean to tell me you are the Lady Madi, the wife of the great chieftain Zuzaka?'

'Of course I am,' said Mah Min, indignantly.

Then the Lady Ganezein rolled back on her seat and laughed and laughed, and when she could get her breath to speak again, she said, looking hard at Mah Min, 'They told me my brother's wife was beautiful; but you are one of the ugliest women I have ever seen. I don't think I need be very jealous of you.' Then she got up, and clapping her hands to call a servant, she



KO SIT GOING ROUND BEGGING WITH ANOTHER PHONGYI FOR THEIR DAY'S FOOD.
(See p. 59.)

The Castle in the Mountains

told him to order her servants and followers to get ready, as she was about to return to her own home.

So she went away still laughing, and Mah Min was so angry that she nearly choked.

‘I don’t care,’ she said to herself, ‘I did it to save Madi; and now that I have been so rudely treated, I’ll make Madi suffer. I’ll insist on being the Lady Madi, and I will remain so till Zuzaka returns. But before he comes back I will escape so that he cannot punish me. And I’ll take



MAH MIN ORDERING MADI AWAY.

all Madi’s best dresses and jewels with me when I go.’

While she was saying all this to herself, Madi came in, and she said,

‘I am very grateful to you, Mah Min, for having saved me, and you acted very well. Now please to take off my dress and my jewels, and put on your own clothes again.’

But Mah Min only stared at her.

The Little Burma Girl

‘ Be quick and change, Mah Min,’ Madi repeated.

Still Mah Min only stared. At last she said, ‘ How dare you, who are my servant, order me about like this ? Go ! And don’t let me hear any more of this rubbish ! ’

Madi could hardly believe she heard aright. But it was of no use. Mah Min insisted that she was the Lady Madi ; and when the other servants were called and asked which was the Lady Madi, they all bowed to Mah Min. You see, Madi had herself told them to call Mah Min the Lady Madi for a few days.

It was dreadful for poor Madi. She could do nothing. And when a few days passed, and still Mah Min refused to change, matters grew worse, for the servants were so afraid of her that they did not dare to disobey her. She ordered such dreadful punishments for people she was angry with. But they were all very sorry for Madi.

MADI IN THE FOREST

MADI IN THE FOREST

MAH MIN treated Madi very cruelly. She made her work very hard. One day she ordered her to be beaten, but none of the servants would do this, so she got very angry and said she would beat her herself.



MADI RUNNING AWAY.

The Little Burma Girl

This was too much for Madi to bear, so she just ran out of the house and through the large gateway, and away across the hills into the great forest.

She did not know where she was running to, but she just ran on and on, only longing to get as far away as she could from the cruel Mah Min.

Her poor little feet got cut and torn with stones, for you see Burmese women do not wear shoes indoors, and



KINGFISHER.

Madi had not had time to fetch a pair of shoes before starting to run away. Poor Madi had never been in this forest before, for she was so afraid of the wild animals that lived there. But now she was more afraid of Mah Min than of the wild animals.

At last she got very tired, and she sat down to think what she was going to do. She wished she knew in which direction Zuzaka had gone hunting. But that would not have helped much, for she did not know in which direction she had come. It was beginning to get dark, and she trembled as she heard rustling in the bushes near.

Oh, if it should be a leopard or a bear !

How her heart beat ! She thought it would jump out of her body, it beat so hard.

Madi in the Forest

Something came pushing through the bushes. No, it was not a leopard or a bear. It was a great wild boar. His tusches gleamed white, and his little red eyes glared fiercely. Madi sat very, very still, for she knew that if you did not hunt wild animals they would not hunt you.

Still she knew that Zuzaka was always hunting wild animals in the forest ; and perhaps this wild boar would



THE WILD BOAR AND MADI.

think she belonged to the hunting party and would hurt her.

But he did not, and trotted on quietly, for he was rather in a hurry, as he knew of a sweet potato-patch which had been planted just where the forest ends and the village fields begin. He thought they would be nice and ripe to eat, so he only grunted and went on his way.

The Little Burma Girl

Then a jungle cat came by.

It came upon Madi all of a sudden, and, oh, how it jumped! It did not stop to look twice at her, but ran away as hard as it could.

Poor Madi felt so cold; she wished she could find some shelter to sleep in. So she got up and stumbled on again, thinking that perhaps she might come to some village.



NÂT'S HOUSE.

At last she came across a very old pagoda with a little Nât's house close by. You must not think that a Nât in Burma is a little stinging insect. It is a sort of elf or goblin. The very ignorant people in Burma think that

the forests and rivers are full of elves and fairies, some good and some bad. And so they think that if they want the good Nâts to protect them and the bad Nâts not to do them any harm, they must put up little houses for them, and bring presents of fruit and put it in the houses for them to eat. Of course, as there are no real

Madi in the Forest

Nâts to eat the fruit, it just lies there till some wild animal comes and finds it and eats it.

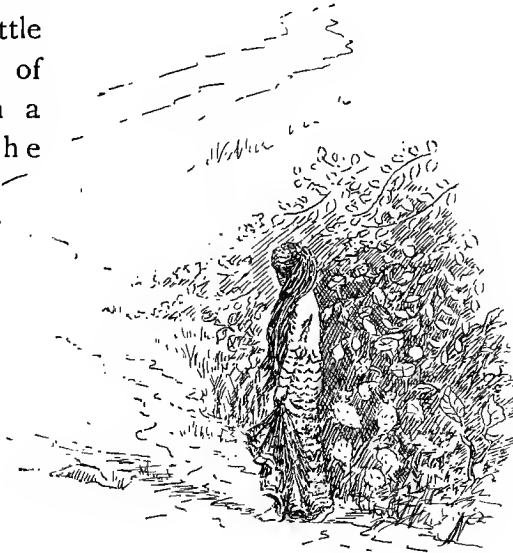
Madi was very glad to find the Nât's house by the old pagoda. She found some nice bananas, and she said to herself, 'I am sure the Nâts are not as hungry as I am, and so they can spare me their bananas to-night.'

She ate them all up, and then she went to look at the pagoda.

There was a little marble image of the Buddha in a niche in the

pagoda. It was only a small image, but still it comforted her to see it there, and

she thought of the great big Buddha in the temple near her old home. That made her think of her father and mother and brothers, and made her cry a good deal. So she crept back to the Nât's house and lay down and tried to go to sleep. She was not afraid of the wild animals any more, for she felt sure the marble

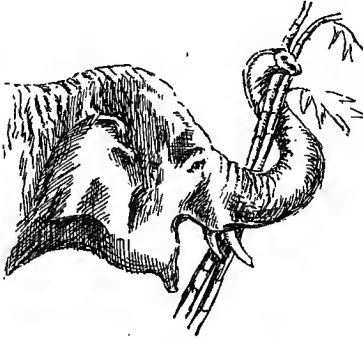


MADI EATING THE FRUIT.

The Little Burma Girl

Buddha would tell them to go away if they came to worry her.

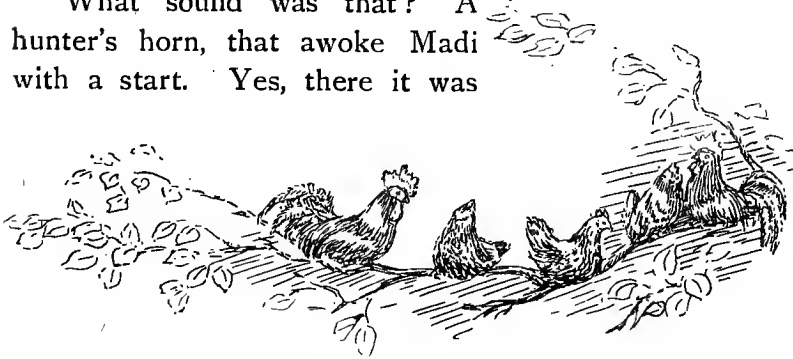
Then a little barking deer began to call across the hill, and another one answered from far away. In the distance she heard a wild elephant trumpet. Some jungle fowl had a scrimmage in the branches of a tree near by, for one of the cocks had taken up more than his share of room on the bough. He made such a fuss when the others



ELEPHANT'S HEAD.

pushed him off, but it was just what he deserved. Then all was quiet, and Madi slept.

What sound was that? A hunter's horn, that awoke Madi with a start. Yes, there it was



JUNGLE FOWL.

again. Oh, joy! It must be the chieftain Zuzaka, for

Madi in the Forest

no other man was allowed to hunt in those forests ; they all belonged to Zuzaka.

Madi climbed out of the little Nât's house, and stood wondering how she could reach her husband. Just at that moment, two beautiful deer came running by. They were running away from the huntsmen. The deer did not even see Madi.

'I wish they could speak,' she said to herself, 'for then I could ask them where the huntsmen are.'

Still, she thought she would walk in the direction from which the deer had come ; so she stumbled along as quickly as she could over the rough stones and prickly grasses.



LEOPARD.

Oh dear, what are those yellow eyes shining through the bushes ? A leopard !

Madi stood still. She knew it was of no use to run away, as of course the leopard could run faster, and there were no trees near to climb. Besides, the leopard might climb too.

She need not have been so frightened, for the leopard was quite as much afraid of her as she was of

The Little Burma Girl

him, and he was hiding in the bushes so that she should not see him. When he saw her looking hard at him he ran away. But Madi was so frightened of meeting any more wild animals, that she just sat down and began to cry.

‘Oh, they will never find me, and I’ll be lost and die of starvation, or perhaps be eaten up by a wild beast in the forest!’



MADI WEeping.

And she cried so much that the grasses at her feet thought that the rain was falling, and lifted themselves up to meet it. But the flowers on a tree overhead laughed at them, and told them that they expected people who lived so near the ground must be stupid and ignorant. So the grasses laid them-

selves down again meekly and went to sleep.

I am sure you must feel very sorry for poor little Madi, and she felt very sorry for herself. Then a good idea came into her head; for she said to herself, ‘If all the animals are coming this way, why, the hunters must be coming this way also. I will sit down here and wait, and perhaps I shall be found after all.’

She was quite right, for very soon the huntsmen

Madi in the Forest

did come that way. They were looking for the leopard that Madi had seen in the bushes.

Oh, what joy for Madi to see Zuzaka again, and to feel quite safe now! You can imagine how angry he was with the wicked Mah Min, and he told some of the huntsmen to go quickly on ahead and catch her before she had time to escape. But although they went very quickly they did not catch Mah Min. She was up early that morning, and she too heard the sound of the



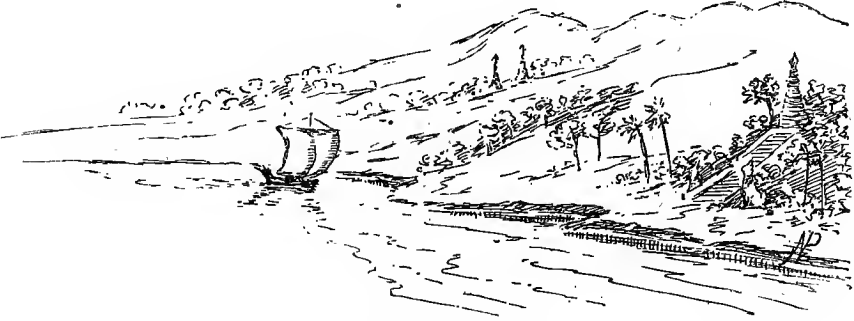
BEATERS.

huntsmen. So she quickly made a bundle of some clothes, and took some food and money, and started off on foot to travel to the river. There she meant to get a boat to take her right down to Rangoon. She felt sure that Zuzaka would not send so far to look for her.

She could not take any of Madi's jewels, as they were always put away at night in a big box. And a man had to sleep on the top of this big box, so that no one should come in at night and steal them.

The Little Burma Girl

Madi was very glad that none of her beautiful jewels had been taken, and she was very glad too that Mah Min had run away. She did not like to think of her being punished, for she remembered that Mah Min had at first changed places just to help her.



THE IRRAWADDY RIVER.

You will be glad to hear that Zuzaka sent for his sister Ganezein to come to see the real Madi; and although Ganezein was a little jealous at first, because Madi was more beautiful than she was, they became great friends.

A GREAT SORROW AND A
GREAT JOY

A GREAT SORROW AND A
GREAT JOY

MADI lived very happily for many years in her lovely home in the mountains.

But our lives do not always go on quite as happily as we wish. I dare say that even the youngest



MADI'S HOME.

The Little Burma Girl

child who reads this book knows what it is to have some little trouble. Some know what it is to have big troubles. And though we don't like to have trouble, it is often the very best thing for us. If everything goes too happily with us, we sometimes get a little selfish. We go on just thinking of our own pleasures and fun, and forget that every one has not a comfortable home to live in, and kind parents to look after them, and brothers

and sisters to play with.

I am afraid that Madi's story is going to get rather sad just now, but it gets quite happy again before the end.

Zuzaka, as you know, often went out hunting. One day he rode away

gaily to hunt a leopard, and waving his hand to Madi and the two children, he cantered off into the forest.

Some hours later, when Madi and the children were having their midday sleep, they were roused by the sound of many voices wailing and weeping, and coming nearer and nearer to the house. One of the men came running on ahead to tell Madi the sad news. Zuzaka's pony, while galloping through the jungle, had put his

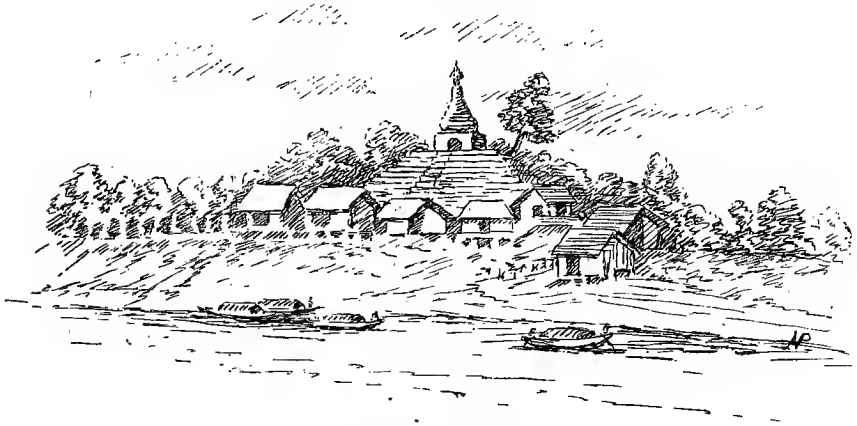


LEOPARD'S HEAD.

A Great Sorrow and a Great Joy

foot in a hole, and stumbling, had thrown Zuzaka on to the ground. Poor Zuzaka! his neck was broken and he would never speak again in this world.

And poor Madi! how she cried and cried; but all her tears and the two little children's tears would never bring Zuzaka back again. And every day Madi got more and more sad and lonely, and all the servants said, 'If our mistress does not eat her food and try



VILLAGE BY THE RIVER.

to bear her sorrow more bravely, she will pine away and die.'

So they went to her and said, 'Oh, most noble lady, we are all very sad to see you so unhappy, and we all wish you to get better, and hope that your life may be less sorrowful. We think if you were to go down the river on a boat to the village where your father and mother live, it would be good for you and cheer you up.

The Little Burma Girl

Also your most honourable parents would like to see your two beautiful children.'

Madi listened to what her servants had to say, and she left her home among the mountains and went to see her parents in the little village where she had lived as a child.

Her father and mother were very glad to see her



PAGODA AND TODDY PALMS.

again; but although they were very kind to her she did not seem to get more cheerful.

'If only I could hope to see my dear husband again some day somewhere,' she said, 'I think I would be happy; for then I would know that I would only have to wait patiently a little while till I met him again.'

You see, children, the Buddhists don't know anything about our happy heaven, where we are all going to meet again some day. They think that when they

A Great Sorrow and a Great Joy

die their souls may pass into some other person, or perhaps into some animal. If they are very, very good they believe that they will go to sleep for ever, and become nothing at all—just melt away.

Madi went to see her brother Ko Sit, and she asked him what he thought about the matter. She hoped that perhaps he might be able to tell that there was some chance for her and the children to meet Zuzaka again. But he told her she must not think of those things, but must hope that Zuzaka would soon reach what he called Nirvana, and vanish away.

‘But then I should never see him again,’ said poor Madi.

‘You must not trouble about that,’ said her brother.

And he could give her no comfort.

One day Madi’s great friend Mah Mie came to see her. She was married now, and her husband had a large boat and carried rice up and down the river just like Madi’s father used to do. She had only one little boy. Madi had a little boy and a little girl. And these three children played together, just like Madi and her brothers used to play on their father’s big boat.



BELOO’S HEAD.

The Little Burma Girl

Madi told Mah Mie how sad she was to think that she would never see Zuzaka again. And Mah Mie said,

‘Madi, I think you will see him again.’

‘Oh no,’ said Madi; ‘I asked Ko Sit, and he said it was wrong of me to think of such a thing. But why do you think that I will see him again?’

‘Ah, Madi,’ said Mah Mie, ‘I am afraid that you will



MAH MIE WITH HER HUSBAND AND LITTLE BOY.

not be my friend any more if I tell you that my husband and I have become Christians.’

You see it is often very hard for Burmese people to become Christians, because their friends get angry with them, and sometimes treat them unkindly.

Madi was rather shocked when she heard that her friend had become a Christian. But she was very fond of Mah Mie, so she said,

A Great Sorrow and a Great Joy

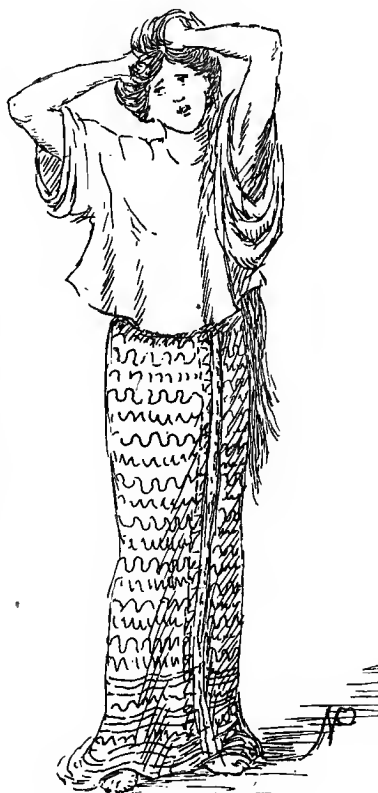


ANGEL AND BABY.

‘Tell me, Mah Mie, why did you become a Christian?’

‘It was soon after our little girl died. You see, I was like you, and was longing to know if I could ever see my little baby again. I cried and cried,

and no one could comfort me. One day the lady from the Mission House came to see me. She was very kind and very sorry for me. Next day when she came I told her how I longed to see my little baby again. Then she told me that I would see my baby in another country in another world. She said that if only I were a Christian I would know this, and that is what made good Christians



MAH MIE WEeping.

The Little Burma Girl

such happy people. They could feel that there was a beautiful country where they would all be together again some day.'

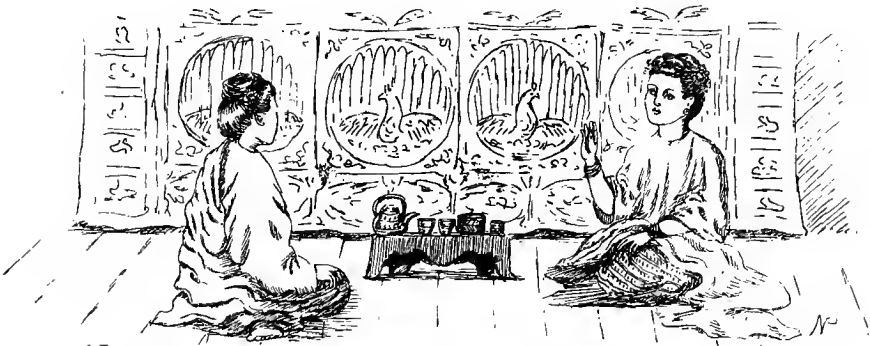
And Mah Mie told how happy she had been since she became a Christian, and how her husband, when he saw how being a Christian had comforted her for the loss of her baby, had also become a Christian.

Madi listened; and next day she went with Mah Mie to visit the Mission House.

The missionary and his wife both talked to Madi, and they were so kind that she felt much happier after seeing them.

She went again next day, and many days following. At first her father and mother were very angry with her for going there, but when they saw that she was getting happier every day they stopped being angry.

One day she went to the missionary and asked him



MAH MIE TELLING MADI HOW SHE BECAME A CHRISTIAN.

A Great Sorrow and a Great Joy

to baptize her, as she wished to become a Christian. They were very glad, and Madi told them that she was soon going back to her own home in the mountains, and that she hoped they would come and see her there, and tell the people in the villages around all the beautiful things the Bible teaches us. And they said they would be delighted to come and see her.



MADI SITTING ON THE TEMPLE WALL.

Of course Madi's two little children were baptized also.

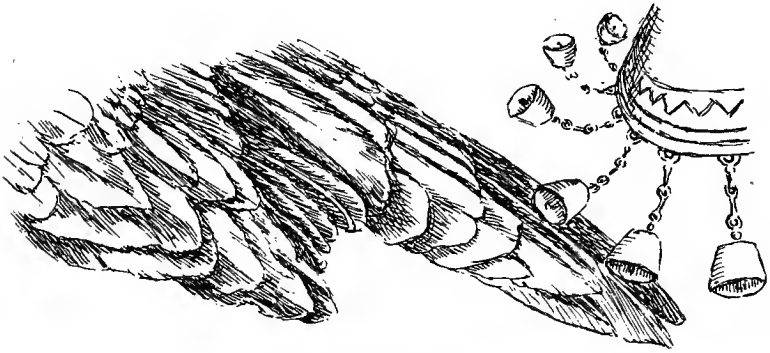
But before leaving the dear little village where her parents lived, and where she had lived as a child, she went up once more to her favourite temple.

She sat there a long time, and she had a beautiful dream. She thought the image of the Buddha became alive, and that he stood beside her and spoke to her

The Little Burma Girl

very gently, and that he smiled kindly at her and said,

‘Listen, Madi: I know that you have become a Christian, and you are quite right. You see I came into the world long before Christ came. I tried to teach people to be good in the best way I knew. But Christ was far greater than I was. I taught people how to be good and live for their own good and



WINGS AND BELLS.

happiness, but Christ taught people how to live for the happiness and good of others.’

Then the Buddha vanished away, and Madi awoke.

She felt very happy as she ran down the temple steps, and all the little pagoda bells tinkled so sweetly and softly, just as if there were a little angel in the wind to set them singing for joy.

Mah Mie and her husband MOUNG TWE took Madi and her children in their big boat up the river to the home in the mountains.

A Great Sorrow and a Great Joy

You may be sure that the kind missionary and his wife went to visit Madi in her home, and taught the people in the village to love and understand the Bible.

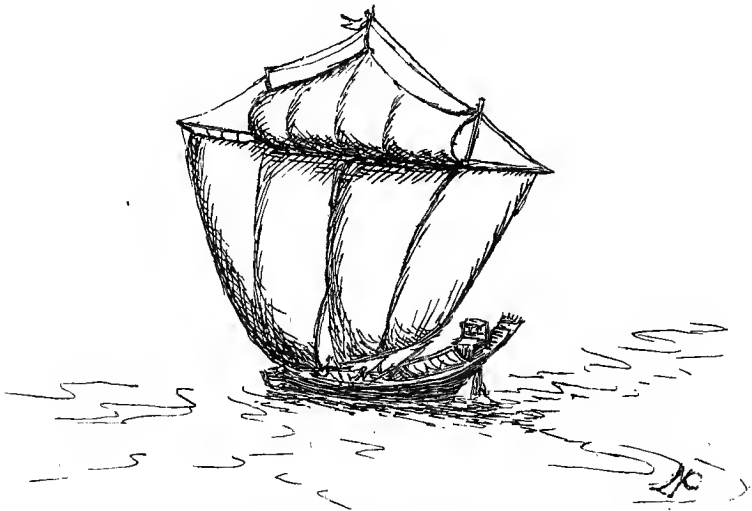
So you see that though Madi had sorrow and trouble, it brought her great peace and happiness afterwards.

I think I hear the pagoda bells ringing now, Little Sister, or is it Nana ringing the tea-bell to call you in to bed?

Yes, I see her face in the window.

You shall have the story of the Little China Girl another evening.

Good night, darling.



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